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S E C R E T THE HAGUE 001948

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/04/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO DUTCH ON SYRIA-IRAQ BORDER SECURITY

REF: STATE 166961

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Nathaniel Dean for reasons 1.
4 (b/d)

(S) Poloff met August 3 with MFA Syria Deskoff Angelique Eijpe and Iraq Deskoff Willemijn Kallenberg to discuss reftel message. Both MFA reps were aware of the information contained in the message, which they said had been known prior to the July 21 regional conference. Eijpe stated that earlier on August 3 the Dutch Embassy in Damascus had reported that the Government of Syria was making a "serious effort" to stop illegal movement on the border with Iraq, but that the GOS lacked sufficient technical capacity and manpower. Eijpe said she therefore believed that the Syrians were in fact making efforts to curb encroachments into Iraq, and that the issue was therefore not on the agenda for further discussion with Syria at this time. She conceded, however, that the EU has "only occasional missions" to the border region whereas the USG has constant surveillance, and said the GoNL would welcome any additional information, such as specific border crossings in question or more recent information since July 21. Seeming surprised that USG appeared more concerned by the border with Syria than with other neighbors, she said she would discuss the message again with the Dutch Embassy in Damascus and relay any further information. Kallenberg reiterated that the Dutch government supports the regional dialogue and regularly encourages the neighboring countries to maintain dialogue to address border issues.

RUSSEL